

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A sealing element, comprising:

a tubular main body of an elastic material, a peripheral wall of the main body enclosing a hollow space that extends along a longitudinal direction of the sealing element, with a connecting passage for fluids,

wherein the peripheral wall in the region of the connecting passage is designed in respect of elasticity of the material, thickness of the wall and inside diameter of the hollow space, such that twisting of the main body causes a constriction of the hollow space in the region of the connecting passage in such a way that the constriction is at a predetermined position in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sealing element.

2. The sealing element of claim 1, wherein:

the tubular main body comprises first and second longitudinal ends, such that twisting of the two longitudinal ends relative to each other causes regular folding of the peripheral wall in the region of the connecting passage and concomitantly therewith a reduction in the diameter of the connecting passage, which is dependent on the amount of angular twist applied.

3. The sealing element of claim 2, wherein:

the peripheral wall has a smaller wall thickness in the region of the connecting passage than in adjacent wall regions.

4. The sealing element of claim 1, wherein:

the peripheral wall has a smaller wall thickness in the region of the connecting passage than in adjacent wall regions.

5. The sealing element of claim 3, wherein:

the wall thickness of the peripheral wall increases steadily with increasing distance from the connecting passage.

6. The sealing element of claim 4, wherein:  
the wall thickness of the peripheral wall steadily increases with increasing distance from the connecting passage.
7. The sealing element of claim 3, wherein:  
the wall thickness of the peripheral wall is substantially constant except in the region of the connecting passage, where the wall thickness is reduced.
8. The sealing element of claim 4, wherein:  
the wall thickness of the peripheral wall is substantially constant except in the region of the connecting passage, where the wall thickness is reduced.
9. The sealing element of claim 2, further comprising:  
a flange at the first longitudinal end of the sealing element, the flange extending radially outwardly from the tubular main body.
10. The sealing element of claim 9, further comprising:  
a flange at each longitudinal end of the sealing element.
11. The sealing element of claim 2, further comprising:  
a diaphragm which at least partially closes at least one longitudinal end of the sealing element.
12. The sealing element of claim 11, wherein:  
the diaphragm has a central opening, a diameter of which is smaller than the diameter of the connecting passage in the fully open condition.
13. The sealing element of claim 1, wherein:  
the tubular main body comprises a silicone rubber.
14. The sealing element of claim 13, wherein:

the tubular main body comprises a material with a Shore hardness greater than 30.

15. The sealing element of claim 1, wherein:

the tubular main body comprises a material with a Shore hardness greater than 30.

16. The sealing element of claim 14, wherein:

the Shore hardness is 50 or greater.

17. The sealing element of claim 25, wherein:

the Shore hardness is 50 or greater.

18. The sealing element of claim 16, wherein:

the Shore hardness is between 50 and 70.

19. The sealing element of claim 17, wherein:

the Shore hardness is between 50 and 70.

20. The sealing element of claim 1, wherein:

when the connecting passage is fully open the hollow space is of a round diameter which is substantially uniform over the longitudinal direction so that the hollow space is in the form of a cylinder open at the two ends thereof.

21. An insertion catheter, comprising:

a sealing element, wherein the sealing element comprises a tubular main body of an elastic material, a peripheral wall of the main body enclosing a hollow space that extends along a longitudinal direction of the sealing element, with a connecting passage for fluids,

wherein the peripheral wall in the region of the connecting passage is designed in respect of elasticity of the material, thickness of the wall and inside

diameter of the hollow space, such that twisting of the main body causes a constriction of the hollow space in the region of the connecting passage in such a way that the constriction is at a predetermined position in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sealing element.

22. The insertion catheter of claim 21, further comprising:

an insertion opening for electrode lines, guide wires or the like which are to be inserted into a vessel by means of the insertion catheter,

wherein the sealing element is arranged in a region of the insertion opening.

23. The insertion catheter of claim 22, wherein:

the sealing element is arranged and designed for selectively closing or opening the insertion opening.

24. The insertion catheter of claim 23, wherein:

the insertion catheter has two mutually relatively rotatable control elements which are each operatively connected to a respective longitudinal end of the sealing element for setting the diameter of the connecting passage of the sealing element.

25. The insertion catheter of claim 24, wherein:

the control elements are arranged in the region of the insertion opening of the insertion catheter.

26. The insertion catheter of claim 25, wherein:

the control elements retain various, mutually relatively rotated positions after setting thereof.

27. The insertion catheter of claim 24, wherein:

the control elements retain various, mutually relatively rotated positions after setting thereof.

28. The insertion catheter of claim 26, wherein:  
the control elements latch in various, mutually relatively rotated positions.